

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-30. The Examiner's rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Independent Claims 1 and 16

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kruspe et al. Claims 1 and 16 have been cancelled. New claims 31 and 34 are the base claims from which the remaining claims depend. Claim 31 effectively replaces claim 1 and claim 34 effectively replaces claim 16.

With respect to claims 31 and 34, Kruspe et al. (US 2002/153136 (D2)) does not teach positioning a sensor in a vibrational node in a drilling tubular. While stabilizers are discussed in this reference, this reference does not teach or suggest that the stabilizer will form vibrational nodes in the drilling tubular and that the sensor should be positioned in such a node. Claims 1 and 16 recite positioning a sensor in a vibrational node. Because these independent claims recite an element that is not taught or suggested in the prior art, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent Claims 2-15 and 17-30

Claims 2-15 and 17-30 depend from claims believed to be in condition for allowance and are allowable on at least those grounds.

With respect to claims 3 and 18, Kruspe et al does not teach an adjustable non-rotating stabilizer and a diameter of the non-rotating stabilizer being adjusted in response to the detection of motion by a second sensor.

With respect to claims 14 and 28, neither Kruspe et al (2002/0153136) nor Kruspe et al (6,637,524) teach or suggest two non-rotating stabilizers that cooperate to form the vibrational node at which the sensor is disposed.

With respect to new claims 32 and 35, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a non-rotating stabilizer that forms a vibrational node by reducing motion of a first sensor below a predetermined level during measurement.

With respect to new claims 33 and 36, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a non-rotating stabilizer that forms a vibrational node that has been analytically predicted.

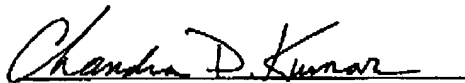
Thus, for these additional reasons, the above-discussed claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. No fee is believed due for this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (414-35025-US).

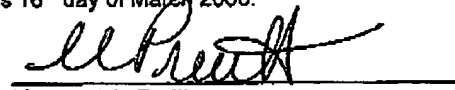
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I do hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile, to the Commissioner for Patents, Examiner, Nicole A. Coy, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on this 16th day of March 2006.


Margaret A. Pruitt